

June 10, 2008

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Congresswoman

Cathy McMorris Rodgers

Advancing what's valuable to Eastern Washington

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Dear Friends,

Here is a quick update on some of the items I'm working on to advance what's valuable to Eastern Washington. As you can see, the month of May was full of activity and June will be too.

I also hope you are enjoying the new format of my electronic newsletter. It is my goal to make it easy for you to find out what I'm doing and to also tell me what's on your mind.

Hydropower Hearing

On June 12th, the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Water and Power, of which I serve as the Ranking Member, will hold a hearing in Washington, D.C. on the future role of hydropower in meeting current and future domestic energy needs.



June 1, 2008
Lower Granite Dam
Alмота, WA

In the Pacific Northwest, we have benefited from clean, renewable hydropower and I am working hard to tell the good news story about hydropower.

While we understand that hydropower is clean, renewable and emissions-free, many inside the Washington, D.C. beltway need to be reminded of our region's environmental success story, especially as Congress debates global warming legislation.

The hearing, entitled "Hydropower: Providing 75% of America's

I want to know what you think are the best ways to reduce gas prices.

Choose the best option to reduce gas prices. You may select more than one option.

- ☐ Open ANWR to environmentally sensitive production
- ☐ Increase off shore drilling
- ☐ Increase refinery capacity
- ☐ Explore oil shale opportunities
- ☐ Examine coal to liquid
- ☐ Repeal the ethanol tax
- ☐ Request OPEC produce more oil
- ☐ Investigate price gouging

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current renewable energy. Exploring its role as a continued source of clean, renewable energy for the future", will involve testimony from leading energy experts across the Nation and Pacific Northwest about why hydropower should be protected and promoted as a leading energy source.

SURVEY RESULTS:

When I announced late last month we were holding the hearing, I asked some of you "should hydropower be promoted when it comes to the global climate change debate?" This is what the 98 respondents said:

Answer	Total
Yes	90.63%
No	9.38

Bringing Energy Relief to Schools

During floor consideration of the 21st Century Green High Performing Public School Facilities Act (H.R. 3021), I offered a motion to recommit the legislation and amend it so that schools facing significant energy cost increases could use funds provided under the bill to help offset the rising price of fuel.

Schools, like everyone in America, are facing an immediate financial crunch, not because schools don't have enough funding for green maintenance but rather they can't afford the rising cost of energy.

Consider:

- At the start of this school year the Reardan-Edwall School District – in Eastern Washington – was paying \$2.88 for diesel. Now they are paying almost double, \$4.93 per gallon.
- So what are they doing? They are trying to decide between additional teachers, textbooks, and supplies or the diesel needed to get the kids to school.

Schools, like all of us, need energy relief.

Americans are concerned about energy costs and they want us to unleash American ingenuity. The vast majority, 70 percent, now say we should develop oil and gas in America. During my tele-town halls over 80% of my constituents support opening ANWR to increase supply and help meet demand.

Five-Point Plan to Revolutionize Health Care

If you are having trouble, click [here](#).

Last month I asked some of you if you agree to drilling in ANWR as a way to increase our energy supply. This is what you said:

Answer	Total
Yes	54.40%
No	45.60%

Photo Album



May 21, 2008

This is me speaking to members of the National Community Pharmacy Association who came to Washington, D.C. The rural pharmacies play a vital role in delivering health care in Eastern Washington, yet the government doesn't fully reimburse them for the cost of the drugs.



May 21, 2008

Members of the color guard at Arlington National Cemetery during the Congressional Women's Caucus' annual wreath-laying ceremony to honor women military members. (Click on photo for more pictures.)



As your representative in Congress, I want you to know that increasing access to quality and affordable health care is one of my top priorities. America can have a health care system that is characterized by better prevention, coordinated care, electronic health records, cutting-edge treatments -- and lower costs. I believe by focusing on access, affordability, quality, accountability and choice, we can offer an alternative to a government-run, one-size-fits-all health care system for America.

I unveiled my plan during the 3rd Annual Project Access Physician Recognition Dinner at the end of May. [Click here for more information about my plan.](#)

SURVEY RESULTS:

During my town halls last month that I held over the telephone, I asked you if you support government-run, single-payer health care. 119 of you responded and said:

Answer	Total
Yes	33%
No	67%

American Families Agenda

During the past month, I heard from many of you in Eastern Washington who told me time and again how concerned you are about the rising cost of fuel and health care. It is with those concerns in mind that I and other women members in Congress launched "The American Families Agenda: Assuring the American Dream" last month.

This agenda is focused on providing Eastern Washington families with solutions to the challenges they face. The five point agenda includes legislation I introduced, including the **Family Friendly Workplace Act**, which gives employers the option of offering employees the choice of paid time off in lieu of cash wages for overtime hours worked if the employee prefers to take compensatory time instead of overtime pay. [You might be interested in reading this editorial in the Spokesman about the](#)

(Subscription required.)



May 15, 2008

Washington, D.C.

I stood on the steps of the U.S. Capitol with Minority Leader Rep. John Boehner (right) and Chairman Adam Putnam (back) unveiling the American Families Agenda.



May 17, 2008

I was honored to present Dan Alderson the Purple Heart during the Armed Forces Torchlight Lilac Parade in Spokane. Mr. Alderson was wounded by enemy rocket fire in 1969 while on night patrol of the Upper Vam Co Dong River, where he lost his right leg while continuing to fight the North Vietnamese Army. (Click on photo for more pictures.)



May 31, 2008

During my Veterans and Military Resources Fair, I was proud to present the Purple Heart to David Witte from Thornton. The Vietnam Veteran was hurt in September of 1968 when a mortar exploded, sending shrapnel into his back. (Click on photo for more pictures.)



May 17, 2008

A special thanks to Anthony Ennamorato who sent us this picture of the color guard and

The **Internet Sex Offender Prohibition Act of 2007** is also part of the agenda. I introduced this legislation that requires mandatory prison time for registered sex offenders who use the internet to target children.

I'd like to thank the many women, and yes, at least one husband, who came to my **5th District Women's Conference** in late May. During the conference, I presented the American Families Agenda and we discussed challenges and solutions to working families across Eastern Washington.

I have a lot of resources on my website regarding this agenda and related legislation. [Click here for more details about The American Families Agenda](#), [here for an opinion piece I wrote for townhall.com that has more information about the Family Friendly Workplace Act](#) and [here for more information about the Internet Sex Offender Prohibition Act](#).

Honoring Eastern Washington Military Members & Veterans

During my District work period at the end of May, I was pleased to host my second annual Veterans and Military Resources Fair. We had a great turnout at WSU Spokane, where more than 250 veterans turned out to see local, state and federal resources available to help them find employment, health care and housing.



May 31, 2008
Veterans and Military Resources Fair in Spokane

In addition to the Veterans and Military Resources Fair, I supported several pieces of legislation benefitting Eastern Washington veterans that came before me during the past month:

H.R. 3819, the Veterans Emergency Care Fairness Act, requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to reimburse Qualifying veterans don't have a service-connected disability, but are enrolled as active participants of the VA health care plan. qualified veterans for emergency treatment received at a non-VA facility until those veterans are transferred to a VA facility.

H.Res. 1054 honors the service and achievements of women in the Armed Forces and female veterans. Almost 350,000 women currently serve in the Armed Forces and make up almost 15 percent of Active Duty personnel and over 17 percent of the

clock tower under a beautiful Spokane sunset the night of the Lilac Parade.(Click on photo for more pictures.)



May 5, 2008

Thank you to Maurice Murphy for taking this picture of the Spokane skyline and sending it to me.

Send me your pictures

Submit your pictures you've taken of Eastern Washington, along with a brief description, [by sending me an e-mail](#). Look for them in next month's e-newsletter.

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National Guard reserve forces.

H.R. 6048 amends the Service Member Civil Relief Act to provide for the protection of child custody arrangements for parents who are members of the Armed Forces deployed in support of a contingency operation. This legislation restricts courts from changing the custody status of a service member's child while they are deployed and unable to participate in custody proceeding.

Down Syndrome Caucus Launch

The week before Mother's Day, I helped launch the Congressional Down Syndrome Caucus. As you may know, my husband Brian and I have a one-year-old son, Cole, who has Down syndrome. We have every intention of doing everything possible to ensure Cole has every opportunity to reach his full potential. I believe the Congressional Down Syndrome Caucus will be a vehicle to help bring this information to the forefront so all families of children and adults with Down syndrome can lead happy lives.

[Click here for a special section on my website that is dedicated to the Congressional Down Syndrome Caucus.](#) And if you haven't seen it yet, [click here for a Mother's Day video I recorded with my son Cole to let everyone know about the Caucus.](#)

regular e-mail updates from my office to your e-mail account.

Areas of Interest

What issues are important to you?

- ☐ Improving access to quality, affordable health care
- ☐ Safeguarding our nation and community
- ☐ Reducing taxes and regulatory burdens
- ☐ Encouraging innovative energy solutions
- ☐ Managing our resources economy
- ☐ Supporting our agriculture community
- ☐ Caring for seniors
- ☐ Developing a 21st Century Workforce
- ☐ Women's Issues
- ☐ Advocating for new and existing transportation infrastructure
- ☐ Supporting our military and veterans
- ☐ Improving our education system

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